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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT N°

TOPIC Military Information from WittenbergEVALUATION see belowPLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED]DATE OF CONTENT 14 November to 16 December 1952DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] DATE PREPARED 21 January 1953REFERENCES [REDACTED]PAGES 4 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) [REDACTED]REMARKS [REDACTED]

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1. From 14 November to 6 December 1952, the Tauntzien Kaserne in Wittenberg quartered about 400 to 600 troops. Sentries observed wore red-bordered black epaulets. A one-mast radio station with one bracing was on the roof of one of the barracks buildings. On 20 November, a half-track armored personnel carrier with a short cannon installed next to the driver's cabin was seen in the barracks yard. About 20 soldiers organized in three platoons made practice marches on 4 December. Trucks [REDACTED] were daily seen picking up mail. The officers billets were surrounded by a fence. Motor vehicles [REDACTED]

2. Prior to 6 December, the premises of the former Arado plant quartered 20 soldiers at the most. Sentries observed wore red-bordered black epaulets without branch-of-service insignia. No tanks were seen in the billeting area. On 17 November, new tank trucks left the installation.

3. The restricted Karl Marx Platz was guarded by sentries with black epaulets. On 18 November, trucks [REDACTED] each loaded with a pontoon and truck [REDACTED] with boxes and towing a motorboat entered the restricted area. Motor vehicles identified in the restricted area [REDACTED]

4. Prior to 6 December, the Flak Kaserne quartered about 1,000 to 1,200 troops. Sentries wore red-bordered black epaulets. On 3 December, about 250 soldiers practiced firing in front of the barracks installation. Six T-34 tanks including [REDACTED] were along the east side of the installation. Trucks [REDACTED] were being utilized in driver-school practice and motor vehicles [REDACTED]

5. Prior to 6 December, the Beseler Kaserne was occupied by 600 to 800 troops. Sentries wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. From 18 November to 1 December, groups of soldiers numbering about 100 men each engaged in leveling work along the eastern garages. On 5 December, T-34 tank [REDACTED] and an SP gun were in front of the garages. Soldiers practiced aiming at four curved signboards, about 50 meters in front of the tank. Four dummy villages were erected at about 100 meters from the tank. About 200 soldiers practiced with

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machine guns on tripods between the garages where other soldiers practiced the mounting and dismounting of tanks including T-34 tanks [redacted] About 365 soldiers and 30 to 40 officers all in class A uniform, made a 400-meter run in front of the barracks installation. SU-249 gun [redacted] was at the gate. Motor vehicles seen going to, or coming from, the billeting area [redacted]

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6. Prior to 4 December, the Beseler Kaserne was occupied by about 1,000 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. It was repeatedly observed that up to 120 officers walked to the Beseler Kaserne from private houses opposite the Taunentzien Kaserne. A radio station with one mast was observed for the first time in the eastern part of the barracks area. The mast was guyed in the middle. The height of the mast was about 8 meters. About 200 soldiers were occasionally seen at basic training. The northern garages were still occupied by about 60 tanks. They were apparently of T-34/85 type. The barracks installation was more heavily occupied than was previously observed. An additional 10 guards were assigned to the regular sentries. Motor vehicles identified in the billeting area [redacted]

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7. Prior to 4 December, the Taunentzien Kaserne quartered an estimated 1,000 troops, most of whom wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia and some black epaulets and crimson epaulets. For the first time, soldiers wearing dark-blue epaulets with red edges were observed at the installation. Four armored vehicles on JS chassis were seen through a hole in the fence. It could not be determined whether these were SP guns or tanks. The shouting of orders was continually heard from the barracks area. Motor vehicles identified in traffic from and to the billeting area [redacted]

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8. Prior to 5 December, the Flak Kaserne was occupied by about 1,500 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with tank insignia. Motor vehicles [redacted] were identified in the barracks area.

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9. Although [redacted] the quarters on the premises of the Arado Plant to have been occupied prior to 4 December, no training activity was noticed. Soldiers observed wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with tank insignia. Trucks [redacted] were identified.

10. Prior to 4 December, the restricted area on Karl Marx Platz was occupied by an estimated 150 troops wearing black-bordered black and red-bordered black epaulets. Intensive traffic was observed between the Taunentzien Kaserne and the restricted area. [redacted] expressed the belief that elements of the engineer unit stationed in the restricted area were quartered in the Taunentzien Kaserne. Five pontoons and bridge building lumber were in the restricted area. Trucks [redacted] were seen en route to the restricted area.

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12. Prior to 3 December, the Flak Kaserne was occupied by an estimated 500 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with tank insignia. Two thirds of each barracks building was lighted at dusk. A board fence was being erected east and south of the installation. From 3 to 6 December, four covered tanks and one JS chassis were in front of the garages. On 3 December, T-34 tank [redacted] was in the barracks yard. Between 4 p.m. and 5 a.m., about 50 unarmed troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets practiced crawling in the training area east of the installation. Five platoons of each about 50 unarmed troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets sang while they marched into the installation. [redacted] T-34/85 tank left the installation toward the training area. Trucks [redacted] were seen in the barracks yard. Trucks [redacted] were seen en route to the installation.

13. Prior to 6 December, the Tauentzien Kaserne was occupied by an estimated 400 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets. On 2 December, 100 unarmed troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets entered the installation. Sedan [redacted] also entered the installation.

14. Prior to 16 December, the Tauentzien Kaserne was occupied by an estimated 750 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery or tank insignia, and an estimated 50 women wearing red-bordered black epaulets. About 50 officers, who belonged to the units in the Tauentzien Kaserne, were quartered in the Lunette officers' billets on Berliner Strasse. These billets were being surrounded by a board fence, about 2 meters high. The few soldiers wearing black-bordered black epaulets, who had been stationed there until recently, had been transferred to the Stadthaus (town hall). On 1 December, 6 platoons totaling about 250 troops were marching in close order. Subsequently, the troops received individual training at squad level. Some individual soldiers were given special training by an officer. Instruction was also being given in several rooms in the first floor. Motor vehicles seen en route to the installation [redacted]

15. Prior to 15 December, the Flak Kaserne was occupied by an estimated 4,000 to 4,500 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including about 300 troops who wore black-bordered crimson epaulets. The troops mostly wore tank insignia and a few artillery insignia. On 22 November, about 300 troops, apparently recruits, who wore red-bordered black epaulets engaged in the construction of field fortifications in the obstacle course. Construction material was being hauled there from the installation. About 100 soldiers received instruction in the field. About 150 troops were policing the quarters. Between 9 a.m. and noon on 26 November, about 250 troops received basic training in the barracks yard. Troops practiced aiming at miniature aircraft with four machine guns on tripods. About 150 troops armed with carbines and rapid fire weapons left the installation toward Super. They were later observed at combat practice which included firing. Two platoons of each about 35 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets engaged in field training near the Nordendlager (camp). Motor vehicles seen en route to the installation [redacted]

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16. Prior to 16 December, the Beseler Kaserne was occupied by about 1,200 soldiers 150 officers and 50 women wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank or artillery insignia. On 19 November, [redacted] the open doors of a garage that a number of tanks and an SP gun were cleaned and painted. A new firing range of about 80 to 100 meters was being built along the garages on Weinberg Strasse. On 26 November, about 200 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets engaged in drill at squad and platoon level. About 65 troops with tools marched to the garages. Tank [redacted] was seen behind the garages on Weinberg Strasse, with about 20 troops engaging in aiming practice at miniature buildings at a distance of about 70 meters. An officer and 4 soldiers armed with machine guns left the installation toward the training area. On 27 November, about 40 troops were seen near the small village near the firing range. They engaged in range finding and target designation. Motor vehicles [redacted] were seen en route to the installation.

17. During the period of observation, troops were continually observed maintaining and cleaning motor vehicles in the camp on Nordend Strasse. Some of the motor vehicles had recently been painted. [redacted]

1. [redacted] Comment. Information in the present report indicates no changes over another report by the same four [redacted] It vaguely confirms the distribution of the 6th Gds Tank Div in Wittenberg as previously carried there. [redacted] The strength figures given are believed to be 50 percent too low.

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